



COLORADO

Department of
Higher Education

Fact Sheet

HB25-1038: Postsecondary Credit Transfer Website

Sponsored by: Representative Hamrick, Representative Johnson, & Senator Marchman

A statewide transfer website will address pertinent issues for Colorado students

Colorado is touted as having one of the better statewide transfer ecosystems in the nation. However, students' desire for a more accessible transfer process is ever-present. With student narratives including loss of credits, misunderstanding of transfer policies, and more, there is a need to provide students with tools to effectively and efficiently transfer between institutions. In ideating on various solutions, the Department met with staff from Arizona, Georgia, Connecticut, and Michigan. Each state has a functioning statewide transfer website including an array of accessible tools for transfer students such as individual course equivalencies and a state pathways guide for specific majors. By creating a statewide transfer website based on these examples, the Department will address ongoing issues within the student transfer pipeline.

Minimizing “lost” credits, advancing higher education opportunity and attainment

We know that transfer students typically take longer to earn a credential and often take more credits than required for the degree. Therefore, there is a time-sensitive need to create a statewide transfer website that students could use to their advantage in pursuit of postsecondary attainment. The website would include information on how credit for prior learning, concurrent and dual enrollment credits, and GT Pathways courses transfer to each Colorado public institution. By allowing students to evaluate and compare their transfer credits across institutions and programs, students can more successfully plan their educational journeys with intention. For some students who stopped attending college, seeing how close they might be to completing a credential may encourage them to re-enroll, boosting enrollment and postsecondary attainment rates and helping Coloradans earn the credentials required for the Top Jobs.

The best next step for transfer transparency

Currently, Colorado students do not have any publicly available resources to evaluate and compare which courses transfer to other institutions. According to the Community College Research Center (2024), approximately 80% of new community college students desire to transfer to earn a bachelor's degree. Yet, after six years of enrollment, only 33% of students have transferred to a baccalaureate-granting institution. The Department is committed to providing transfer student support but currently lacks the necessary data collecting authority and resources to provide transparent information. By sponsoring this legislative item, the Colorado General Assembly ensures that transfer data will be utilized to its full advantage in a transparent, effective manner, supporting students' ability to make informed decisions for their future.

For More Information

Colorado Department of Higher Education <https://cdhe.colorado.gov/>
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A statewide transfer website will address pertinent issues for Colorado students

HB25-1038: Postsecondary Credit Transfer Website: State vs Third-Party Platform



How will the state custom platform differ from available third-party platforms?

The Colorado Department of Higher Education (CDHE) is dedicated to uplifting our public institutions of higher education (IHE) to ensure they have an array of accessible tools for transfer students. This website is created, implemented, and managed by CDHE solely and does not require any payment for platform participation—so IHEs can fully utilize the platform without having to duplicate work or worry about added costs.

| Feature | Third Party Platform | State Custom Platform | IHE or CDHE Responsibility |
|----------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Accessible to Anyone | | X | CDHE |
| All Public Colorado IHEs | | X | CDHE |
| Colorado-Specific Data | | X | CDHE |
| Customizable to Colorado | | X | CDHE |
| Opt-In for Private CO IHEs | | X | CDHE |
| Platform Ownership | | X | CDHE |

How does the postsecondary credit transfer website benefit students?

This website will include information on how credit for prior learning, concurrent and dual enrollment credits, and GT Pathways courses transfer to each Colorado public IHE, creating a truly Colorado-centric approach. Please see the back side of this sheet for definitions of the acronyms mentioned below.

| Feature | Third Party Platform | State Custom Platform | IHE or CDHE Responsibility |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| AP Course Equivalency | X | X | CDHE |
| CLEP Courses | X | X | CDHE |
| DSST Equivalency (DANTES) | X | X | CDHE |
| GT Pathways | | X | CDHE |
| IB Course Equivalency | X | X | CDHE |
| One-to-One Credit Match | X | X | CDHE |
| Reverse Transfer | | X | CDHE |
| STAA Equivalency | | X | CDHE |

Dear House Education Committee Members,

We are pleased to express our strong support for House Bill 25-1038, which establishes a **statewide, publicly accessible online platform** dedicated to simplifying the postsecondary transfer process for Colorado's postsecondary students. This initiative builds on the **commendable work that Colorado's Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) have already undertaken** to improve transfer pathways and streamline credit recognition. HB25-1038 will elevate these ongoing efforts by creating a **one-stop, Colorado-specific resource** that will **enhance transparency, reduce confusion, and empower students to make informed educational choices.**

Colorado has long been a leader in fostering seamless transfer options, yet students still face barriers due to fragmented information and inconsistent access to credit transfer details. By bringing together course equivalencies, credit transfer policies, and pathways to degree completion into a **state-managed, no-cost platform**, this bill ensures that students—both current and prospective—can easily navigate their postsecondary options within Colorado's public institutions.

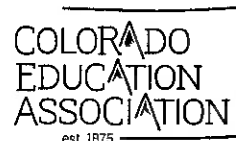
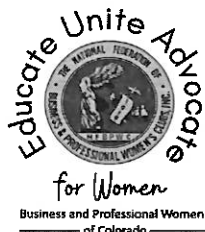
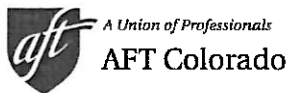
This legislation is **student-focused and forward-thinking.** It will:

- **Encourage more students to enroll in Colorado's public and private colleges and universities** by making credit transfer information **accessible, clear, and centralized.**
- **Support current students and returning learners** by reducing unnecessary coursework and accelerating their path to degree completion.
- **Strengthen Colorado's higher education system** by ensuring institutions remain competitive, particularly in an era of declining college enrollment.
- **Expand opportunities for rural institutions** by making it easier for students to discover and transfer into a wider range of colleges and universities.

By passing HB25-1038, Colorado will not only **enhance efficiency within its higher education system** but also **affirm its commitment to student success**—ensuring that students have the tools they need to plan their academic journeys confidently.

We urge the General Assembly to advance this important legislation and look forward to the benefits it will bring to Colorado's students, families, and institutions.

Sincerely,





February 2025

To: House Education Committee

Re: AAUW Support for HB 1038--Postsecondary Credit Transfer Website

Dear Committee Members:

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) is one of the oldest women's organizations in the country, empowering women since 1881. The mission of AAUW is to advance equity for women and girls through research, education and advocacy. More than 700 community leaders are AAUW members in local branches around the state.

AAUW has led the fight for economic empowerment for women, and we have made progress over the years. Yet, girls and young women continue to face barriers to reach their full potential. HB 1038 breaks down one of those barriers: fragmented information and inconsistent access to credit transfer details. HB 1038 will provide easy access to a one-stop website with all the information current and prospective students need to determine their pathway to a higher ed degree at any Colorado college or university.

For these reasons, AAUW of Colorado strongly supports HB 1038 and asks for your YES vote in committee and throughout the process of becoming law.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Su Ryden". The signature is written in a cursive style and is enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Su Ryden
AAUW Colorado Public Policy Co-Director

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American Association of University Women--AAUW is a top-rated 501(c)3 charitable organization whose mission is to advance gender equity for women and girls through research, education, and advocacy.

Thank you, Madam Chair, and the members of the committee. My name is Ariel Paige Tomlinson. I am currently a student at CU Denver. I am majoring in Public Administration with a focus on Non-profit management. I believe this degree will open opportunities to serve better the communities and individuals that mean so much to me, including communities of color and those facing mental illness, poverty, and racial and gender disparities.

When I began my academic journey, I initially wanted to cultivate a career within a field related to psychology, given my connection to the outstanding mental health issues that our country continues to experience. I attended The Community College of Denver to achieve the first step of this goal. While beginning my journey within higher education was and still is exciting and continuously inspiring, it was also quite scary and confusing at points. After attending CCD for my associate's, I was ready to continue to a 4-year university to get my bachelor's Degree, which is what most jobs in many fields require before even considering giving someone an interview. However, I was involved in an incredibly abusive situation and ended up homeless. It took me almost 6 years to rebuild my life, and I needed the confidence to return to school to have a real chance at achieving my career goals via higher education.

Once I was finally ready to return to school, I did not know that many essential credits I had earned at CCD would not transfer to the university of my choice. Credits are tuition money, and it was disheartening and demoralizing not to know my educational journey's status. I felt overwhelmed by being surprised that I had to pay for classes I had already taken or found out that better classes could have been taken. Suppose students can better map their academic careers through an easily accessible source. In that case, they can make better financial choices regarding attending college, which will help them get into the workforce sooner and with less debt because they will have the tools to create a better plan.

Telling people not to get into debt for school. is unrealistic. Many of our most outstanding leaders have needed help throughout school and this world. Most, if not all, of you chose to be where you are today because you have a passion for serving and helping others.

This is a small ask regarding the values I can only hope have guided you on your academic path and career. With hope, gratitude, and the personal knowledge that there is so much talent out there that deserves every tool possible, they may become stronger links that lead to more substantial and prosperous communities. So many amazing and dedicated individuals are considering completing their college careers. Your voting yes